

last week was beaten senseless and left for dead, tied up like a scarecrow along a fence on a little-traveled country road. Miraculously, he was found by passers-by many hours after the attack, still struggling for life when he was rushed to a hospital in Fort Collins, CO, where he died Monday while on life support.

Local law enforcement officials in Laramie, WY, where the crime took place, quickly arrested the alleged perpetrators—two men who performed the assault and two women who helped them hide their deed—and it looks like they will be punished to the full extent the law allows if they are convicted. With Shepard's death, they face a possible death sentence.

Laramie, a university community of 27,000 people, is feeling both shame and outrage, a sentiment shared by all right-minded people throughout the country, indeed around the world. News of this brutal assault has appeared everywhere in print and broadcast media.

The crime against Shepard has renewed calls for passing hate-crime legislation, both in Wyoming and nationwide. Wyoming Gov. Jim Geringer and President Bill Clinton have said that this attack shows the need for such laws.

This would be a mistake. It would be a mistake because hate-crime laws, however well intentioned, are feel-good laws whose primary result is thought control, violating our constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and of conscience. It would be a mistake because it suggests that crimes against some people are worse than crimes against others. And it would be a mistake because it uses a personal tragedy, deeply felt by Shepard's family and friends, to advance a political agenda.

Hunter College Professor Wayne Dynes, editor of the *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*, notes that hate-crime laws, if they are to be applied in a constitutional manner, must be content-neutral. He notes this example: "Countless numbers of people, aware of the unspeakable atrocities under his leadership, hated Pol Pot. This hate was surely well warranted. If one of the Pol Pot haters had killed him, would this be a hate crime? Why not?"

Dynes adds: "In seeking to exculpate the killer, we would get into the question of whether some hate is 'justified' and some is not." He concludes that hate-crime prosecutions "will be used to sanction certain belief systems—systems which the enforcer would like, in some Orwellian fashion, to make unthinkable. This is not a proper use of law."

Under our system of justice, everyone is equal before the law. Those accused of crimes are entitled to certain constitutional protection, which we must cherish, and the victims of a crime—whether a Bill Gates or the poorest street-sweeper in a slum—are entitled to the same respect. (In the Middle Ages, the law required a greater punishment for killing a rich man or noble than it did for killing a peasant or a laborer. Our law recognizes no such distinctions.)

So, too, with class- or group-based distinctions. Is it worse to kill a man because he is foreign-born than it is to kill him to steal his car? Is it worse to kill a woman because she is black than because she cut you off in traffic? Is it worse to beat up a fat sissy boy if the bullies think their victim is gay, or if they dislike him because he is fat? Crime is crime; assault is assault. All deserve punishment.

Hateful thoughts may be disagreeable, but they are not crimes in themselves. The crimes that result from hateful thoughts—whether vandalism, assault or murder—are already punishable by existing statutes.

In a speech at the University of Texas last year, libertarian activist Gene Cisevski said:

"We should be anti-violence, period. Any act of violence has to be punished swiftly and severely and it shouldn't matter who the victim is. The initiation of force is wrong and it doesn't matter why—the mere fact you had a motive is enough."

Cisevski acknowledged the good intentions of those who propose hate-crime laws. He noted that "the reason for the call for (such laws) comes from bad enforcement of the laws." Police and prosecutors have been willing to look the other way when victims came from unfavored groups. Luckily, in the Shepard case, the authorities seem unwavering in their prosecution. This is, unfortunately, not always the case.

The answer, Cisevski suggested, and I agree, is that "we hold every law enforcement official and every court official who administers justice to the standard that every American is guaranteed equal protection under the law."

Hate-crime laws set up certain privileged categories of people, defined by the groups to which they belong, and offers them unequal protection under the law. This is wrong. It is sad to see a young man's personal misfortune used by various special-interest groups to advance such an agenda.

We are all shocked and dismayed by the assault on Shepard. Such brutality cannot, should not be countenanced. Let us not multiply the crimes of his attackers by writing bad law in response.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PASSAGE OF THE INTER- NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 10, the House of Representatives cleared for the President's signature the International Religious Freedom Act, H.R. 2431. The Senate had approved the measure by a unanimous vote of 98–0 on Friday, October 9.

During floor debate on the measure, I thanked a number of people who helped bring this legislation to fruition. I today want to pay tribute to the work of Michael Horowitz, senior fellow at the Hudson Institute; A.M. Rosenthal of the New York Times; and Anne Huiskes, senior legislative assistant on my staff.

First, I want to commend the work of Michael Horowitz. The movement against Christian persecution which has sprouted in the American Christian community in recent years can be credited, in part, to the leadership, vision and voice of Michael Horowitz.

When he first learned about the injustice taking place against Christians around the world he set about trying to foster change. His experience as a Washington insider, a former Reagan Administration official, and a veteran of the fight against anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union provided a unique insight.

In a 1995 op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal* titled "Between Crescent and Cross," Horowitz asked how America, and the American government, could remain silent when "the evidence of growing and large-scale persecution of evangelicals and Christian converts is overwhelming."

From there, he helped launch a crusade to raise awareness about anti-Christian persecution abroad using the campaign against Soviet

anti-Semitism as the model. He joined with many others who were calling for change, and what developed was a movement spawning greater awareness about persecution against people of all faiths. He has helped turn this issue into one of the most under-reported and obscure issues in Washington, to one of the most compelling human rights issues of the day.

Because of the work of Michael Horowitz and many others, the United States government, for the first time in history, has a comprehensive policy to deal with the issue of religious persecution overseas. His voice and vision have helped millions of Christians, Muslims, Bahai's, Tibetan Buddhists, Jews, Hindus and other people of faith seeking to live and worship in peace.

I also want to applaud the work of A.M. Rosenthal, former editor-in-chief of the New York Times and one of the most prominent figures in 20th century American journalism. I have been told that since 1994, Rosenthal has dedicated 31 of his weekly columns in the New York Times to the issue of religious persecution—asking why more is not being done, prodding policymakers to stand up for the persecuted and pricking the conscience of all those who read his eloquent words. He talked tough and spoke the truth. He did so courageously, and with authority. He has truly been the voice for the voiceless around the world.

Finally, I pay tribute to Anne Huiskes of my staff, who deserves so much credit for helping to move this measure forward. Our colleagues know that any measure of success we as Members achieve must be shared with the staff who support us and our constituents in our work in Congress. Anne's work on my staff has focused in the area of human rights, and she has poured her heart and soul into this legislation, as well as so many other human rights issues, over the years.

She has pleaded the case for persecuted religious believers around the world, bringing people and groups together toward the common goal of speaking out for those who have been silenced because of their faith. When it seemed the darkest, when it seemed there was only a flicker of hope that this legislation would survive, Anne was always there—pushing and pulling, cajoling and inspiring, never giving up. She truly believed that passage of this legislation would help save lives.

As I said in my statement on October 10, so many people are responsible for the passage of this legislation. I thank them all for their efforts. They have made a difference for people of faith around the world.

DANTE B. FASCELL NORTH-SOUTH CENTER ACT OF 1991

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I enthusiastically rise to join my colleagues in praising the passage of legislation renaming the North/South Center at the University of Miami for my friend and our former colleague and Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Dante B. Fascell. This legislation is well deserved. The North/South Center should bear his name, for he was its creator.

Dante, now 81 years old and living in Clearwater, Florida, served in the House for 38 years, from 1954 through his retirement in 1992, representing South Florida with dignity, reverence for his office, and the rare ability to please all the members of his diverse constituency. He was one of the most respected Members during the time he served in Congress, and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with him and to learn from him.

Known as an outstanding legislator and negotiator, Dante fine-tuned his interest in foreign affairs with his particular focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. He conceived of the idea for the North/South Center, a scholarly institution for the free exchange of views to promote understanding, cooperation and democracy in the region. This idea became reality in 1990. Importantly, ahead of his time, Dante had the clairvoyance to see the increased interdependence of the two hemispheres, and that trend's connection with the City of Miami.

The North/South Center at the University of Miami has turned Fascell's ideas into reality. The school plays an invaluable role in helping the Administration and federal agencies conduct American public policy, and is called upon frequently to present its views. Moreover, it provides research, public outreach, and cooperative study opportunities on a variety of timely issues, as well as education and training programs for scholars and others throughout the Western Hemisphere.

I applaud the decision of the University of Miami to rename the North/South Center in honor of Dante B. Fascell. Its new name will ensure that the contributions of this fine public servant to the common good of South Floridians, and the nation, will always be at the forefront of our minds.

ALL-USA TEACHERS FROM
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HONORED

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate five teachers from Columbus, Georgia, who have been selected from over 600 of their colleagues to be honored for their outstanding commitment to our children.

Coleen Cotton, Deborah Greene, James Pippin, and Amy Willis of Arnold Middle School are among the twenty-three teachers named to the "USA Today's All-USA Teacher Team." Nicknamed the "Dream Team," the four have worked together to integrate their school subjects (language arts, science, social studies, and math) in order to make learning relevant for their students. The symbol of their creation is a ball of yarn 37.5 feet in diameter.

An example of the yarn's usefulness as a learning tool was described in yesterday's USA Today. "The project has snowballed since the yarn ball was started seven years ago. Last year, Amy Willis' math classes calculated the mathematical qualities of the ball, predicted that year's expansion and estimated its weight. Debbie Greene's science classes learned about yarn's role in textiles, a Columbus industry. Jim Pippin's social studies classes investigated similar large balls of yarn and

twine. And Coleen Cotton's reading classes read some 'yarns.'"

I also extend my congratulations to Nan Pate of Brookstone School in Columbus on being awarded with an "All-USA Honorable Mention."

These five teachers from Columbus, Georgia, represent the kind of devotion and ingenuity that is needed to take our country and our children into the 21st century. It is these teachers, and others like them, who will strive to make our education system the best in the world. I thank them for their commitment, and I congratulate them on their excellence.

TRIBUTE TO THE POVERELLO
HOUSE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Poverello House on the occasion of its 25 year Silver Anniversary. The Poverello House is known throughout the Central Valley for its charitable work.

The Poverello House was started in 1973 when Fresno newcomer Mike McGavin began feeding 30 street people out of a van in Fresno's Chinatown. Today the Poverello House serves over 1000 meals a day at its downtown building. The program also distributes 65,000 meals a year to local churches. Mr. McGavin's vocation has grown beyond feeding the hungry. Now the uninsured receive free medical and dental care. In addition, recovering alcoholics and drug addicts live at Poverello House and homeless men spend the day there.

Mike McGavin's work with the poor began in the late 1960s in San Francisco, where he stumbled onto a coffee shop for the homeless. At the time he was a customer. With the help of the Franciscan priest who ran the program McGavin began volunteering. McGavin wanted to atone for the trouble he had caused as a teen in the Los Angeles gang and as a drug addict in San Francisco. Mike moved to Fresno and it is here that he began feeding the homeless of Chinatown. In 1981 a business man donated \$60,000 that went towards the purchase of buying a building in Chinatown. A \$1.3 million renovation doubled the building in 1992. The larger building now houses a resident program which allows 28 men to live at the house for a period of six months. In addition five men may stay at a halfway house northwest Fresno for as long as two years.

Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor Mike McGavin and the Poverello House for 25 years of service to the community. Mr. McGavin has turned the atonement for his past into one of the finest charitable institutions in Fresno. I urge all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Mike McGavin and the Poverello House many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN J. SCHIFF

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, on October 14, the Greater Cincinnati area lost one of its finest community and business leaders. John J. Schiff, the founder of Cincinnati Financial Corporation, passed away at the age of 82. A devoted family man, he was married to Mary Reid Schiff for 50 years and had three children. His business achievements and philanthropic acts left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him, on the insurance industry, and on the entire Cincinnati community.

Mr. Schiff epitomized the American dream and embodied the idea that with dedication and hard work, anything is possible. What began as a small business which employed only Mr. Schiff and an assistant, grew into a thriving company of 2,700 employees with yearly earnings of \$300 million.

Mr. Schiff was born in Cincinnati in 1916 and graduated from Ohio State University in 1938. After returning home from valiantly serving his country in the Navy during World War II, he founded his own company, the John J. Schiff Agency. It was then that he began to visualize a better, stronger, company.

With personal relationships, an unwavering work ethic, and intense loyalty serving as the foundation, he and his brother Robert, along with two other investors, formed the Cincinnati Insurance Company. The company focused on selecting the best agents to represent the company, and provided them with the highest level of service and support. He was dedicated to making life better for his associates, agents, community, policy holders, investors, and friends.

Mr. Schiff's business savvy was second only to his unwavering philanthropic efforts to better his community. He was dedicated to civic, educational, and artistic endeavors. Many organizations benefited from his zeal, including: the Museum Association, Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Music Hall Association, the 1788 Club, Deaconess Hospital, the Salvation Army, and Shiloh Community Methodist Church, just to name a few. He was very active with his Alma Mater, Ohio State. He was recognized as a Great Cincinnati by the Chamber of Commerce, Man of the Year by the Insurance Board, and was presented the Founders' Day award by Xavier University, where he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree.

Mr. Schiff's success is proof positive to all of us that with hard work, dedication and a strong will to succeed we can attain almost any goal we strive for.

TRIBUTE TO OWNER-OPERATED
INDEPENDENT DRIVER ASSOCIATION
AND PRESIDENT JIM JOHNSTON

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, the Owner-Operator Independent Driver Association (OIDA)